9 of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957.

(b) if so, since when the work regarding review of the rates for Madhya Pradesh is pending; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard and by when the review would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Section 9(3) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) provides that Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, amend the Schedule related to rates of royalty so as to enhance or reduce the rate at which royalty shall be payable in respect of any mineral with effect form such date as may be specified in the notification provided that the Central Government shall not enhance the rates of royalty in respect of minerals more than once during any period of three years.

(b) and (c) Rates of royalty of minerals other than fuel and minor minerals were last revised *vide* Gazette Notification GSR. 677(E) dated 14.10.2004 and are applicable to State of Madhya Pradesh also.

Royalty rates of minerals

†2725. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing royalty rates of the minerals like limestone, bauxite, iron ore and dolomite alongwith the dates these are effective from;

(b) whether Government propose to take any decision to fix the same as per the market prices thereof so that the States might reap the physical benefits of the minerals revenues;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Rates of royalty of minerals were recently revised *vide* Gazette Notification GSR. 677(E) dated 14.10.2004. The existing

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

rates of royalty of the minerals mentioned in the question are given below:

Sl.No.	Mineral	Rates of Royalty
1.	Bauxite	(a) Zero point four zero percent of London Metal Exchange Aluminium metal price chargeable on the contained aluminium metal in ore produced for those despatched for use in alumina and aluminium metal extraction. (b) Twenty percent of sale price on ad valorem basis for those despatched for use other than alumina and aluminium metal extraction and for export.
2.	Dolomite	Forty five rupees per tonne.
3.	Iron ore (i) Lumps:	
	(a) with 65% Fe content or more	Twenty seven rupees per tonne.
	(b) with 62% Fe content or more but less than 65% Fe content	Sixteen rupees per tonne.
	(c) with less than 62% Fe content	Eleven rupees per tonne.
	(II) Fines:	
	(a) with 65 % Fe content or more	Nineteen rupees per tonne.
	(b) with 62 % Fe content or more but less than 65% Fe content	Eleven rupees per tonne.
	(c) with less than 62% Fe content	Eight rupees per tonne.
	(iii) concentrates prepared by beneficiation and/or concentration of low grade ore containing 40% Fe or less.	Four rupees per tonne.
4.	Limestone	
	(a) L.D. Grade (less than one and half % silica content)	Fifty-five rupees per tonne.
	(b) Other	Forty five rupees per tonne.

(b) to (d) Conventionally, for revision of royalty rates of minerals other than fuel and minor minerals, a Study Group is constituted under the Chairpersonship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines, with respresentatives of major minerals producing States on rotational basis, concerned Central Ministries/Departments, Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines and Federation of Indian Mineral Industries as members. Comments of all stake holders, including States Governments are solicited. Considering all these inputs received from stakeholders, and in keeping with parity with the best international practice, royalty rates are recommended by the Study Group. Recommendations of the Study Group are examined in the Ministry of Mines and after obtaining the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, revised rates of royalty are notified.

As recommended by the last Study Group, royalty rates of limestone, iron ore and dolomite have been fixed on tonnage basis and royalty rate of bauxite has been fixed on ad *valorem* basis. The revised rates of royalty were notified on 14.10.2004.

As per proviso to Section 9 of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957, the Central Government shall not enhance rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years. As such generally the Study Group for revision of rates of royalty are appointed before completion of three years from last revision of rates of royalty and any suggestion regarding fixation of rates of royalty for above mentioned minerals on the basis of selling price of such minerals can be considered by the next Study Group constituted for the purpose.

FDI in mining sector

2726. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA. Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to bring FDI in mining sector;

(b) if, so whether Government have drawn any action plan for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to protect interests of the employees in the mining sector; and